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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub a4
1. A disposable diaper comprising:
a liquid-pervious topsheet;
5 a liquid-impervious backsheet;
a liquid-absorbent core covered with an absorbent and
diffusive sheet and disposed between said topsheet and said
backsheet;

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said core being formed on a side of said topsheet with
10 at least one groove depressed in a direction from a side of said
topsheet toward a side of said backsheet and said groove has
a bottom and side walls both covered with said topsheet;

said core containing water-absorbent fibers and
superabsorbent polymer particles; and

15 said water-absorbent fibers and superabsorbent polymer
particles being partially disposed between said topsheet and
said backsheet along said bottom of said groove.

Sub a5
2. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said
20 superabsorbent polymer particles are joined integrally with the
absorbent and diffusive sheet covering said core along said
bottom and side walls of said groove.

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Sub 6a6 3. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said absorbent and diffusive sheet is joined to said topsheet along said bottom and side walls of said groove by means of adhesive.

Sub 6a7 4. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said water-absorbent fibers form a thin layer having a density higher than that of said water-absorbent fibers around a depth of said core and being in close contact with said absorbent and diffusive sheet.

Sub 6a8 5. The disposable diaper according to Claims 1, wherein said water-absorbent fibers are fluff pulp fibers.

Sub 6a9 6. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein a distribution density of said superabsorbent polymer particles gradually increases in a thickness direction of said core from said topsheet toward said backsheet.

Sub 6a9 7. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said disposable diaper has a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending between these two waist regions and wherein said groove extends in a longitudinal direction of said diaper.

8. ⁶¹⁰ The disposable diaper according to Claim 7, wherein said crotch region is formed along a transversely opposite side edge portions thereof with said grooves, respectively, extending in said longitudinal direction in parallel to each other.

9. ⁶¹¹ The disposable diaper according to Claim 8, wherein a distribution density of said superabsorbent polymer particles in said core is higher between said grooves extending in parallel to each other than outside said grooves.

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